

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 RSC-01 /018 W

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R 281050Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO USDOC WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1171

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: BMEP, AF

SUBJECT: PROGRESS REPORT: TEN MAJOR PROJECTS

REF: KABUL 7828

1. IN JANUARY 27 MEETING WITH ENGINEER TOUFIQI, EMBOFFS WERE BROUGHT UP TO DATE ON STATUS OF TEN MAJOR PROJECTS OUTLINED REFTEL.

2. CONTRACTS FOR "TECHNO-ECONOMIC" STUDIES ON KANDAHAR WOOL AND TEXTILE FACTORIES WON BY JAPANESE. FRENCH TO SIGN CONTRACT FOR STUDY OF KANDAHAR CEMENT FACTORY THIS WEEK. BASED ON EMBOFFS DISCUSSION WITH TOUFIQI, ACTION ADDRESSEES CAN CONSIDER THESE THREE PROJECTS DEAD FROM STANDPOINT POSSIBLE U.S. INVOLVEMENT. REMAINING SEVEN PROJECTS, HOWEVER, VERY MUCH OPEN. FYI. EMBOFFS AMAZED AT SPEED WITH WHICH TOUFIQI IS LINING UP CONTRACTORS. APPARENTLY HE IS UNDER TREMENDOUS PRESSURE TO PRODUCE TEN "TECHNO-ECONOMIC" STUDIES WHICH WILL ENABLE GOA TO RANK PROJECTS IN ORDER OF SENIORITY. GOA APPEARS TO HAVE OPEN LINE OF CREDIT (PRESUMABLY FROM OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES) AND IS MAKING DECISIONS CONCERNING

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CONTRACTORS IN INFORMAL, ALMOST IMPULSIVE MANNER. VISITS

OF COMPANY REPS COULD BE PARTICULARLY PRODUCTIVE AT THIS TIME. END FYI.

3. TOUFIQI WANTS ALL PROPOSALS FOR "TECHNO-ECONOMIC" STUDIES BY MARCH 20 IN LUMP SUM FIGURES. HE FEELS EVEN THE MOST COMPLEX OF THE STUDIES SHOULD AIM FOR COMPLETION IN THREE MONTHS. HE STILL CLEARLY SEARCHING FOR COMPANIES WHICH CAN UNDERTAKE TURNKEY CONSTRUCTION ASSUMING POSITIVE STUDY CONCLUSION, BUT EMBASSY BELIEVES HE WILL BE FLEXIBLE ENOUGH TO CONSIDER NBNSORTIUM ARRANGEMENT ON ONE OR MORE OF THE PROJECTS.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE INFORM U.S. FIRMS OF ABOVE DEVELOPMENTS EMPHASIZING SHORT DEADLINE AND POSSIBLE EFFICACY OF VISIT TO KABUL BY COMPANY REPS. SUGGEST FIRMS CONTACT TOUFIQI THROUGH EMBASSY SINCE HIS MAIL AND CABLE TRAFFIC OFTEN DELAYED.
ELIOT

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